

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1567  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6572

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, VT, RO  
SUBJ: STATUS OF VATICAN-ROMANIAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: BUCHAREST 2252, ROME 4437

1. VATICAN OFFICIAL, FATHER BUKOVSKY, WHO RETURNED APRIL 5 FROM A FOUR-DAY TRIP TO ROMANIA, CONFIRMS SUBSTANCE OF STATUS OF VATICAN-ROMANIAN NEGOTIATIONS AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 1 REFTTEL.

2. BUKOVSKY'S PRIMARY PURPOSE FOR TRIP TO ROMANIA WAS TO INSTALL FATHER PIETRO GHERGHEL AS ORDINARY "AD NUTUM SANCTAE SEDIS" FOR THE TERRITORY OF IASI IN ROMANIA. GHERGHEN AS "ORDINARY" WILL POSSESS ALL THE FACILITIES AND RIGHTS NORMALLY ACCORDED TO APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATORS, WHICH IN PRACTICE MAKES HIM EQUIVALENT TO A BISHOP. ALTHOUGH HE WILL NOT HAVE POWER TO "ORDAIN" NEW PRIESTS, HE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF CHURCH ADMINISTRATION, THE PRIESTS AND SEMINARIES OF THE TERRITORY OF IASI. THIS MAKES HIM THE MOST RANKING CATHOLIC CHURCH OFFICIAL IN ROMANIA, FOLLOWING BISHOP MARTON OF ALBA IULIA.

3. GHERGHEL WAS BORN IN MOLDAVIA, [Sensitive Information Removed Per NARA 09 DEC 2014]. STUDIED  
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PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY IN THE SEMINARIES OF ALBA IULIA AND IASI. WAS ORDAINED A PRIEST ON JUNE 29, 1965 AND SINCE THEN HAS SERVED AS PARISH PRIEST OF PARTOCEOTI AND AS PROFESSOR AT THE IASI SEMINARY WHERE, SINCE 1975, HE HAS ALSO BEEN THE VICE DEAN.

4. BUKOVSKI WAS DISAPPOINTED THAT GHERGHEL INSTALLATION

COULD NOT TAKE PLACE AT IASI ITSELF. GOR  
PREFERRED THAT INSTALLATION TAKE PLACE AT BUCHAREST  
REPORTEDLY BECAUSE IASI IS STILL TECHNICALLY UNDER THE  
DIOCESE OF UCHAREST AND ALSO BECAUSE THE GOR WAS IRRITATED  
BY RADIO FREE EUROPE'S BROADCAST OF REPORT ISSUED BY  
BOLOGNA STUDY CENTER REGARDING RELIGIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN  
ROMANIA. (WE WILL ATTEMPT TO GET COPY OF THIS FOR EMBASSY  
BUCHAREST.) OTHERWISE CEREMONY WAS FREE AND SEVEN PRIESTS  
FROM IASI WERE ALLOWED TO BE PRESENT AS WITNESSES.

5. BUKOVSKY WAS ALSO DISAPPOINTED WITH MEETING HE HAD  
WITH CHAIRMAN OF DEPARTMENT OF CULTS, ROSIANU AND HIS  
"ASSISTANT", POPESCU. ROSIANU, ACCORDING TO BUKOVSKY,  
STATED THAT VATICAN/ROMANIAN CHURCH DRAFT "STATUTO" WAS  
INADEQUATE AND THAT GOR WANTED NEW DRAFT WHICH WOULD  
DEAL IN COMPREHENSIVE WAY WITH ORGANIZATION, NATURE  
AND STRUCTURE OF CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ROMANIA. THIS MEANS,  
IN EFFECT, THAT GOR WANTS DRAFT TO INCLUDE ELEMENTS OF  
EXISTING ROMANIAN LEGISLATION IN STATUTO.

6. VATICAN HAS KNOWN OF GOR PREFERENCE FOR ALL-INCLUSIVE  
DRAFT, BUT WANTED GOR TO TAKE DRAFTING INITIATIVE. IN THIS  
REGARD, THE MOST DIFFICULT ELEMENT FOR VATICAN AND  
CATHOLIC CHURCH WOULD BE INCLUSION OF LEGAL CLAUSE  
REQUIRING GOR "SANCTION" OF APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS OF  
BISHOPS. UNDER CATHOLIC CANON LAW, HOLY SEE RESERVES  
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THIS POWER TO ITSELF. ALTHOUGH IN THE PAST IT HAS  
ACCEPTED SOME ROLE FOR GOVERNMENTS IN THESE MATTERS, THE  
TREND, AS ILLUSTRATED RECENTLY IN CASE OF SPAIN AND THE  
DRAFT REVISION OF THE VATICAN/ITALIAN CONCORDAT, IS FOR  
GOVERNMENTS TO RELINQUISH SUCH ROLE.

7. COMMENT: IT SEEMS THAT GOR HAS PLACED BALL IN  
VATICAN COURT ONCE AGAIN. VATICAN IS, THEREFORE, CURRENTLY  
FORMULATING ITS POSITION ON THE NEXT STEPS IN STATUTO  
DRAFTING PROCESS. BUKOVSKI THINKS THAT HE AND MUNCIO-  
AT-LARGE POGGI ARE LIKELY TO MAKE TRIP TO ROMANIA IN  
JUNE TO CONSULT WITH CATHOLIC HIERARCHY ON REDRAFTING  
STATUTO TO CONFORM WITH GOR WISH. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** NEGOTIATIONS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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